

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 OIC-04 AID-20 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03

H-02 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 AGR-20 COME-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 NEA-10 RSR-01 /207 W

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R 021710Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2309

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 07599

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR:ECRP:XX

SUBJECT: SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL

BEGIN SUMMARY. SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF IWC CONCLUDED
JUNE 28 WITH DECISION TO AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO
UNDERTAKE PREPARATORY WORK FOR EXTENSION OF INTERNATIONAL
WHEAT AGREEMENT, 1971 FOR TWO YEARS. COUNCIL ALSO
AUTHORIZED RELEASE OF FORECAST OF WHEAT OUTLOOK FOR CROP
YEAR 1973/74 INDICATING POTENTIAL WHEAT EXPORT AVAILABIL-
ITIES WOULD FALL CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF IMPORT DEMAND.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN FINAL DAY OF 66TH MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL WHEAT
COUNCIL (IWC), AGREEMENT REACHED THAT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
WOULD WORK WITH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP DRAFT
INSTRUMENTS LOOKING TOWARD EXTENSION OF INTERNATIONAL
WHEAT AGREEMENT (IWA) DUE TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 1974 FOR
ANOTHER TWO YEARS. US AS DEPOSITORY GOVERNMENT FOR
IWA WILL BE CALLED UPON TO RENDER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
IN DRAFTING APPROPRIATE INSTRUMENTS. THESE WILL BE
SUBMITTED TO IWC FOR FINAL DECISION IN NOVEMBER AS TO
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WHETHER TO RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS.

IF DECISION IS POSITIVE, PROTOCOL WILL BE OPENED FOR
SIGNATURE NO LATER THAN MID-MARCH 1974.

2. DURING DISCUSSIONS, A DOZEN OR SO COUNTRIES EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR IDEA OF EXTENDING IWA, THOUGH FIRST CHOICE IF TIME PERMITTED WOULD BE NEGOTIATION OF NEW AGREEMENT INCORPORATING PRICE PROVISIONS AND PURCHASE AND SUPPLY OBLIGATIONS. ONLY EEC AND US REFRAINED FROM INDICATING SUPPORT FOR EXTENSION OF IWA. OTHER DECISIONS BY IWC WERE:

3. WHEAT FORECAST - SECRETARIAT AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE ON OR ABOUT JULY 3 FORECAST OF L973/74 WHEAT EXPORT AVAIL- ABILITIES AT LEVEL QUOTE SUBSTANTIALLY SHORT OF PRESENTLY PROJECTED REQUIREMENTS. END QUOTE. OWING TO US AND INDIAN DELEGATION EFFORTS, FORECAST WILL BE CONSIDERABLY LESS ALARMIST THAN ORIGINAL VERSION WHICH SHOWED ESTIMATED SHORTFALLS VARYING UP TO 21 MILLION TONS. CANADIAN DELEGATION WHILE ADMITTING CROP PROSPECTS IN CANADA WERE MORE FAVORABLE THAN INDICATED IN ORIGINAL DRAFT BY SUB-COMMITTEE ON MARKET CONDITIONS INSISTED ON KEEPING LOW-SIDE FIGURES IN FINAL REPORT. USSR DELEGA- TION VOLUNTEERED NO NEW INFORMATION. INDIAN DELEGATE ASSERTED INDIA WOULD NOT IMPORT MORE THAN 2 TO TWO AND ONE-HALF MILLION TONS OF WHEAT IN 1973/74.

4. HARMONIZATION OF SECRETARIAT'S PAY AND ALLOWANCES: COUNCIL AGREED TO BRING PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF SECRETARIAT INTO LINE WITH THOSE OF OTHER LONDON-BASED INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY ORGANIZATIONS. MOVE WAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY JAPAN, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, USSR, BRAZIL, SWITZERLAND

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IO-13 OIC-04 AID-20 NSC-10 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15

STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03 H-02 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12

AGR-20 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSR-01 /207 W
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AND ARGENTINA. US DELEGATION OBSERVED CONSENSUS SEEMED TO HAVE EMERGED AND NOTED CAREFUL AND THOROUGH DOCUMENTATION SUPPLIED BY SECRETARIAT.

5. BUDGET: DRAFT BUDGET CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT CL66/10 ACCEPTED WITHOUT COMMENT OR DISSENT. EXPENDITURES BUDGET AMOUNTS TO POUNDS STERLING 148,310, MEMBERS' ASSESSMENTS TOTAL POUNDS STERLING 140,000 OR POUNDS STERLING 70 PER VOTE, US SHARE OF ASSESSMENT BUDGET IS POUNDS STERLING 19,740.

6. NEW OFFICERS: WILLIAM MINER OF CANADA WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN FOR 1973/74 AND H. P. KELLER OF SWITZERLAND WAS ELECTED VICE CHAIRMAN.

7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: EXPORTERS GROUP WILL CONSIST OF US, USSR, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA; IMPORTERS GROUP WILL CONSIST OF ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT, BRAZIL, EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, INDIA, JAPAN, PORTUGAL, SOUTH AFRICA AND SWITZERLAND.

8. ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE ON MARKET CONDITIONS: SUB- UNCLASSIFIED
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COMMITTEE WILL BE VIRTUALLY SAME AS LAST YEAR.

9. WHEAT MARKET FORECASTS: COUNCIL AUTHORIZED FORECASTING WORK TO CONTINUE ON REGULAR BASIS WITH FORECAST TO BECOME REGULAR FEATURE OF ANNUAL REPORT.

10. REDISTRIBUTION OF VOTES: IMPORTERS GROUP RE-DISTRIBUTED VOTES TO ACCORD WITH SHARES OF WORLD WHEAT TRADE CORRESPONDING TO EEC AFTER ENLARGEMENT. ELIMINATION OF INTRA-EEC TRADE LOWERS EEC VOTES AND ASSESSMENTS TO LESS THAN A THIRD OF IMPORTERS' GROUP AND RAISES VOTES AND ASSESSMENTS OF OTHER IMPORTERS.

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